Reviewer’s report

Title: Gout and Sexual Function: Patient Perspective of how gout affects personal relationships and Intimacy

Version: 0 Date: 15 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Amy Nguyen

Reviewer's report:

This paper discusses the results from nominal groups with gout patients about the impact of gout on their sexual intimacy.

Abstract

1. Define nominal group. This term is not used commonly outside of those conducting qualitative research and needs to be defined.

Introduction

2. The short introduction is based on four references (one of which is the author's), and so more detail about these studies is needed to build up a clearer rationale for this study.

Materials and methods

3. More information is required about what nominal group technique sessions consist of. It is not clear for those who have not conducted these previously.

4. The use of subheadings within the NGT session paragraph is required to make it clearer.

5. How was it ensured that all participants in the NGT spoke?

6. Data analysis of information from NGT sessions requires deeper descriptions about how the data from each NGT was combined, and what information was actually combined. i.e. were the top 3 responses from each NGT recorded and then it was determined which were the most frequent? How did the transcriptions add value to these ranks - were the ranks confirmed by transcriptions?
7. Was the data only analysed by one person? Was there a second analyst to confirm the findings? As this is qualitative research, you would hope so as to minimise any subjectivity.

Results

8. Please provide the range, as opposed to S.D. for ages etc

9. The results of the main themes may be better displayed using a table format (with bullet points) for ease of following as each theme has many subthemes within them.

10. As this is a qualitative study, representative quotes from participants would be useful and demonstrate the strength of using a NGT approach for this study.

11. A summary figure of the main themes and subthemes would be useful to readers.

Discussion

12. Some of the Discussion is merely repeating what is stated in the Results without proper discussion on its clinical relevance to those with gout and its impact upon their sexual intimacy.

13. The paper cites few references, and could be strengthened by examining differences and similarities between this and related impact of gout studies.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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